

A classroom in the midst of combat

U.S. military around the world use PDAs to continue studies

Service members all over the world are earning degrees online. However,



Specialist Michael Namey, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, uses his PDA in Iraq.

on the desert warfront, computers and stable Internet connections are few and far between, making access to online coursework more difficult. “While online education has greatly improved access to education,” said Boris Vilic, director of technology in Duquesne University’s School of Leadership and Professional Advancement (SLPA), “we continue to seek ways to provide even greater access, especially for those who have limited

Internet connectivity. Our adult students indicated they were seeking ways to complete coursework while offline, including on their lunch hour, while commuting and especially while deployed.”

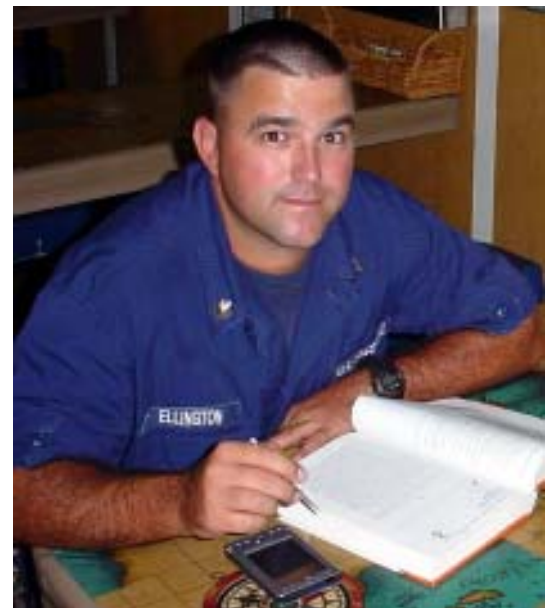
In the fall of 2004, Duquesne’s SLPA launched Learning-on-the-Go® PDA, which allows students to use handheld computer personal digital assistants

(PDAs) to support their online coursework. SLPA opted for a pilot phase so that any technical issues could be discovered and remedied before a full launch. Roughly 50 Service members, located in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, participated in the pilot.

According to Mary Jane Snyder, director of military education, “the PDAs are great for Service members because they are lightweight, portable – fitting in a soldier’s pants pocket – and course materials can be uploaded and downloaded easily, which is quite convenient when they only have a few minutes to access the

Internet.” The PDAs feature instant access to course materials, discussions, formative feedback, quizzes, flash cards, and other learning resources. The PDA courses are not independent studies. Students interact with an instructor and other students, but in a more limited fashion than in Duquesne’s traditional online courses.

“This is a very positive endeavor to focus on in a combat environment,” said Army Captain John Stakeley. “I find this helps to reduce the stress and helps me stay focused. This appears to be a better option when you are in a



GM1 Stuart Ellington, onboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Thetis, studies with a PDA.

remote location or have a poor Internet connection. There are several challenges. It is critical that you manage your time and activities well. Overall though, it can be

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Testing Calendar

December 2005

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | Excelsior Extended Response (Essay) |
| 3 | LSAT |
| 12-17 | GRE Subject * |

January 2006

- | | |
|------|---------|
| 7-11 | Praxis* |
|------|---------|

February 2006

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 3 | Excelsior Extended Response (Essay) |
| 4 | LSAT |

March 2006

- | | |
|-----|---------|
| 4-8 | Praxis* |
|-----|---------|

April 2006

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 3-8 | GRE Subject * |
| 7 | Excelsior Extended Response (Essay) |
| 29-3 May | Praxis* |

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/05-06cal.pdf

GED testing update

If you currently stock GED Batteries you will receive, starting in December 2005, Forms ID& IJ for use beginning 1 January 2006. The forms you currently stock, IB & IC, cannot be used after 31 December 2005 and must be returned to GED Testing Service after that date.

Form ID was first used in 2003 so if you retest an individual who tested on this form, ensure that person retakes on a different form of the test. Examinees are never allowed to retest on the same form of the GED Battery.

CLEP study guide on CD

DANTES recently mailed a CD-ROM containing the 17th Edition of the CLEP Sample Tests to all DANTES Test Centers. In addition to the CD-ROM, these sample tests are available on the DANTES Web site for DANTES TCOs and ATCOs who have established a username and password account in the Exams Management Information System (EMIS). Several of the Services have also included these study guides on their knowledge online systems.

The pass rates for the current CLEP eCBT computer-based and paper-based CLEP General examinations are substantially lower than the earlier versions of these examinations. The American Council on Education (ACE) had previously recommended credit for scores ranging between 420-500.

ACE now recommends credit for a standard score of 50 for all the CLEP eCBT examinations, both General and Subject.

Encourage prospective examinees to review the study guide for the respective test before taking the actual CLEP General or Subject test. Each study guide contains sections relating to Knowledge and Skills Required, Sample Test Questions, and Study Resources. Following the recommendations in the "Preparing for Taking CLEP Tests," in conjunction with the study guide, can assist examinees to determine their readiness for taking CLEP tests and hopefully prepare them to be successful.

New Certified Professional pub

A revised *Be a Certified Professional* publication is currently at the printers and will be ready soon for

distribution. Expect the publication in hard copy for various conferences and training sessions; it will also be available online as a PDF on <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Questions? Contact the DANTES Certification Program at certprog@voled.doded.mil.

Two new FAA centers

Two new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) test centers have been added to those sites offering Airframe, Powerplant, and General aviation mechanic testing in computer-based testing format. Cannon AFB in New Mexico and McChord AFB in Washington were activated on Sept. 27. This brings the total number of base education centers offering A & P licensure exams to nine. The Coast Guard Air Station in North Bend, Ore. is expected to be the next site activated.

DoD Directive 8570.1-M

The Directive 8570.1-M, once signed, will impact the information technology community throughout the Department of Defense. Expect the final signature for the Directive soon. It requires all military and civilians working in Information Assurance (IA) positions to obtain training and certification/recertification in order to maintain their jobs working on government information systems (IS). This Directive addresses the process of how "baseline technical and management IA skills are established among personnel performing IA functions across the DoD enterprise" (*DoD Information Assurance Training, Certification and Workforce Management*, Draft, 2004, p. 7). Look for updates in the *DANTES Information Bulletin* (DIB) and on the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

SOC selects new SOCAD director

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) recently selected Judith Loomer, Ph.D., to head the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Army Degree (SOCAD) Program, replacing Kathy Snead, who was recently selected as the new SOC Director. Loomer comes to SOC with over 20 years' experience in education, government, and human relations management.

She brings to this position a wide range of professional experience in college administration to include oversight of curriculum, accreditation, and assessment programs. She is also a creative leader in program management, strategic planning and policy development, military quality of life programs, diversity initiatives, volunteer management, event planning, and program design. Additionally, she has served as teacher, facilitator, and



Judith Loomer

workgroup leader. She earned her Ph.D. and master of arts from the University of Pennsylvania and her bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University in New York.

A few of Loomer's career and professional leadership positions have included:

- Senior associate for Caliber Associations, Fairfax, Va.
 - Interim associate director, Office of Women in Higher Education, American Council on Education (ACE), Washington, D.C.
 - Associate dean for Academic Affairs, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
 - Chief, Human Resources Office, 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.
- She has taught various courses in English Composition, American Litera-

ture, Writing and Editing at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, N.Y.

When asked what her goals were for SOCAD, she states, "My goal as the new SOCAD project director is straightforward: I want to build, strengthen, and promote partnerships between the Army and the higher education community. I believe we can accomplish our mission to provide education opportunities to Soldiers and their families by working together to maintain the quality and relevancy of the degrees offered through the SOC degree network system. Simply put, I want to make SOCAD the "go-to" choice for Soldiers seeking college degrees."

DANTES welcomes Dr. Loomer to her new position.

To contact Loomer, you may E-mail her at loomerj@aascu.org or call 1-800-368-5622.

New SOC Consortium Guides now available

DANTES is currently distributing the new two-volume 2005-2007 *Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium Guide* and CD to DANTES customers. You will notice a slight name change for the new *Guide*. It now includes the word "Consortium," which reflects the 1800+ institutional SOC members. These members collectively confer the full range of associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees to Service members. Many offer on-base programs and some serve military installations overseas. Some SOC Consortium members act as "home colleges" for Service members who, by prior agreement, may earn academic credits elsewhere.

The Guide contains an information page for each institution that is a member of the SOC Consortium

organized by state. Each includes:

- General Demographics - accreditation; states in which it is approved to operate; level of degree offerings; whether it is public or private; credit system; SOC-sponsoring organizational membership; undergraduate admissions test requirements; SOC institutional representative, and SOC counselor by name, phone number, fax, and E-mail.
- Military Programs - identified military installations served by an institution and supervisory official designated by the institution at the installation; membership in the SOCAD, SOCNAV, SOCMAR, or SOCOAST Degree Networks.
- Non-Traditional Credit Policies of each institution.

To receive additional copies of the *SOC Consortium Guide*, Stock # 2109,



send a DANTES Material Request form, to include your DANTES ID number, to:

DANTES, Code L
6490 Saufley Field Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

The *SOC Consortium Guide* and CDs are also available from Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges' headquarters in Washington. Send an E-mail request to socmail@aascu.org or call 1-800-368-5622.

Guidance Materials online

DANTES has recently updated the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) Part IV Guidance Materials for the new fiscal year. To make it available to all ESOs and counselors, DANTES put the booklet online, so anyone interested in obtaining interest inventories or guidance materials can access the booklet and compare the different assessment instruments, such as the Strong, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Kuder, the Career Assessment Inventory, the Holland, and the Campbell Interest and Skills Survey.

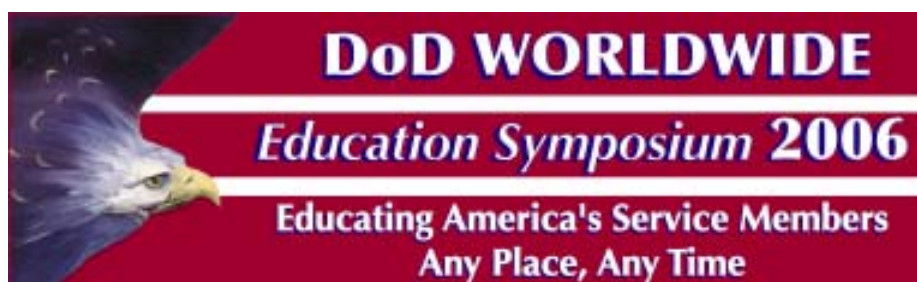
The booklet is no longer available to order from the Distribution Center (Stock #1248). It is strictly online now at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/distribution/guide1.htm.

For questions on this booklet or on guidance assessments in general, E-mail counseling@voled.doded.mil.

Historically black colleges and universities

The Black American Colleges Search feature on the Air Force, Army and Navy's Library Education Resource Center permits the viewing of profiles of 117 historically Black American colleges and universities. Descriptions begin with a brief historical overview, followed by the facts and figures students need to know before making their decision. Information includes: application contacts, tuition costs, entrance requirements, degrees and program offerings, and more.

Developed in conjunction with the Service's libraries, the Thomson Peterson's Education Resource Center



DoD Worldwide Education Symposium Schedule at a Glance

www.ww06.com

Service meetings and other activities subject to change ~ Must pre-register for Myers-Briggs training

Sunday, 16 July 2006	Tuesday, 18 July 2006	Wednesday, 19 July 2006	Thursday, 20 July 2006
1:00 - 6:30 pm Registration	7:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration	6:00 - 7:00 am Fun Run/Walk	8:00 - 9:30 am Concurrent Sessions
Service Meetings Army Reserves, pm	8:00 - 8:15 am Opening Ceremony	8:00 - 9:30 am Presidents' Panel	8:00 - Noon M-Briggs Workshop
	Presentation of Colors	Moderator: John Bear	
	National Anthem		9:30 - 10:00 am Break
	8:15 - 8:30 am	9:30 - 10:00 am Break	
Monday, 17 July 2006	Welcome		10:00 - 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions
7:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration	8:30 - 9:00 am Opening Remarks	10:00 am Exhibit Hall Opens	
		& Morning Break	11:30 am - 1:00 pm Lunch & Roundtables
Service Meetings Air Force, am/pm	9:00 - 9:45 am Keynote: Elliott Masie	10:00 am - 1:00 pm EXPO & Lunch	1:00 - 2:30 pm Concurrent Sessions
Army, am/pm			
ARNG, am/pm	9:45-10:15 am Break	1:00 - 2:30 pm Concurrent Sessions	2:30 - 3:00 pm Break
Coast Guard, am/pm			
Marine Corps, am/pm	10:15 - 11:45 am Senior Officer Panel	1:00 - 5:00 pm Strong Interest Inventory	3:00 - 3:15 pm Announcements
Navy, am/pm		& Skills Confidence Wkshp	
1:00 - 5:00 pm M-Briggs Workshop	11:45 am -12:15 pm Break	2:30 - 3:00 pm Break	3:15 - 4:00 pm Keynote: GEN (Ret) Johnnie Wilson
5:00 - 6:00 pm Pre-Reception Activities (outside exhibit hall)	12:15 - 1:45 pm Brown Bag Lunch w/ Senior Leadership	3:00 - 5:00 pm Workshops/Sessions	4:00 - 4:15 pm Retire Colors
6:00 - 8:30 pm Exhibit Hall Opening & Reception	2:00 - 3:30 pm Senior Enlisted Panel	3:00 - 3:50 pm Concurrent Sessions	6:00-9:00 pm Dinner & Team Event at House of Blues
	3:30 - 4:00 pm Break	4:00 pm Exhibit Hall CLOSED	
			Friday, 21 July 2006
	3:30 pm Exhibit Hall Opens	4:10 - 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions	Service Meetings
			Army, am
	4:00-5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions		ARNG, am
			Coast Guard, am
	7:30: pm Exhibit Hall Closes		7:30 - 11:30 am M-Briggs Workshop

is designed to support Service personnel and their families pursue and realize their educational goals, during and after they leave the armed forces. The Web site is accessible from any computer with an Internet connection.

For more information go to the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC), Army Knowledge Online (AKO) or the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Web site or their open URLs: <http://www.petersons.com/airforce>, <http://www.petersons.com/army>, and <http://www.petersons.com/navy>. Click on the library section, Library Education Resource Center, Educational Searches, and Black American Colleges Search.

Reading. Writing. 'Rithmetic. Retired.

Don't say the word retired around Pine Forest High School (PFHS) teachers Greg and Shelley Mangram. Between coaching football and baseball, teaching driver's education, reading, computers, and social skills, and

During that time, he also was a volunteer coach at PFHS, where he did his student teaching. He then was hired as both a Special Education teacher and coach at PFHS.

Greg is the head coach of the junior varsity baseball team, defensive coordinator of the ninth grade football team and the assistant coach of the varsity football team, in addition to the classroom. At Corry Station, he taught enlisted Sailors and Marines, many between the ages of 18-21, close to the ages he now teaches in high school. "As a Navy chief, I was responsible for the physical and emotional well-being of every Sailor under my supervision, and I carry that same attitude into my classroom every morning and on the practice field each afternoon. I enjoy a level of trust and admiration among the students I teach and others," Greg said.

Shelley, after retiring, worked as a contractor and then in federal

civil service, but still couldn't decide what she wanted to do. "I volunteered to help coach the PFHS girls' junior varsity basketball team.

I really loved coaching, and at that point, I found myself also wanting to be these girls' teacher," said Shelley. She wondered if she, too, could be a high school teacher.

"I had self-doubt and for eight months drove myself crazy thinking about it," she said. "I figured I would never

know if I'd be a good teacher if I never tried." One week after leaving her civil service job, she was in the classroom as a substitute teacher.

During the time she was substituting, she passed the certifications tests and received her temporary certificate in Special Education and Social Studies. The substitute job changed to a permanent status and she was hired as a Social Studies teacher. "I applied to Troops to Teachers and received a bonus which I used to take the required classes for my Professional Teacher Certificate," Shelley said.

Troops to Teachers, a Department of Education/Department of Defense program managed by DANTES, helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed.

Visit www.proudtoserveagain.com, call (850) 452-1320, or E-mail ttt@voled.doded.mil for more information about Troops to Teachers.



Retired Navy Chief Greg Mangram helps a high school student in a driver's education class.

standing the required lunchroom duty, this husband and wife team is hardly retired.

The two Cryptologic Technician Collection (CTR) chief petty officers retired from the Navy after 20 years in 1999 and spent their last years in the Navy as instructors at Corry Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Today, they are in the classroom again, this time as high school teachers. Greg always knew that he wanted to coach high school football, so as soon as he retired, he traded his instructor books for student books and went to the University of West Florida and received a master's degree in Special Education.



Retired Navy Chief Shelley Mangram teaches reading and social studies in high school.

At the helm, new USCG VoEd director

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

Robert (Bob) Bothel is the new director of Voluntary Education for the U.S. Coast Guard. He is responsible for the administration and management of a broad range of educational programs available for all USCG personnel (active duty, reservists, civilians and spouses). As highlighted in the September DANTES Information Bulletin, (DIB), the previous director, Joyce Taylor, retired.

Bothel's professional career is extensive. Prior to assuming his present duties with the Coast Guard, he served as the director of Lifelong Learning for the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa for five years. This included providing leadership to a program with

seven education centers and 11 library facilities.

His Okinawa program was recognized as one of the flagship programs within the DoD. Of particular note was the achievement of having the Okinawa Main Library at Camp Foster designated a "Premier" library. This was the first library in the DoD to achieve that status. His program underwent a Military Installation Voluntary Education Review (MIVER). This review brought positive commendation.

Prior to his service in Okinawa, Bothel had a career in public and private education. He also served as a Navy officer for eight years and left

the USN as a lieutenant commander (LCDR).

A native of Wooster, Ohio, Bothel firmly believes in the power of education. He asserts, "The commitment the Coast Guard and all Services have made in providing Tuition Assistance to its members has proven to be a solid investment.

This will continue to inspire generations to learn for a lifetime."

He holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in Educa-

tional Policy and Leadership from Ohio State University.

DANTES congratulates Mr. Bothel on his selection.



Robert Bothel

Coast Guard Institute has diverse history

Recognizing a need for correspondence course training, the Coast Guard established the Coast Guard Institute in 1928. To learn the intricacies of nonresident training, the Institute was initially co-located with the Marine Corps Institute in Washington, D.C.

In 1929, the Coast Guard Institute moved to Fort Trumbull in New London, Conn., where it stayed for 13 years.

With the establishment of the Coast Guard Training Station at Avery Point in Groton, Conn., in 1942, the Institute again had a new home. The Institute remained at Avery Point for 25 years.

In 1967, the Avery Point Training Station was disestablished, with the

majority of its schools being moved to Governors Island, N.Y.

At this time, the Institute was moved to the Mike Monroney Aero-

nautical Center in Oklahoma City, Okla. One of the primary reasons for relocation to Oklahoma City

was to take advantage of the Federal Aviation Administration's advanced computer complex.

Its current staff of 33 personnel administers, scores and distributes nonresident courses, evaluates military experience and education, provides

official Coast Guard transcripts, coordinates the Coast Guard's Voluntary Education Program, administers the Coast Guard's Tuition

Assistance Program, and coordinates the Coast Guard's External Evaluation Program.

The Coast Guard Institute serves approximately 36,000 students from the Coast Guard including

regulars, reservists, auxiliaries, retirees, civilian employees, dependents, other branches of the Armed Forces, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City

Education success story

“I started taking a class here and there, using Tuition Assistance (TA) as I went along, but nothing really degree oriented. At Ft Bliss, I went to the education center with the intention to complete my degree. A consultation with a counselor, Emma Davis (my education hero), put me on the right path. With the classes I had completed before coming on active duty, and the ones completed so far, combined with evaluation of my military schools and experience, I had enough credits for my associate degree. Following her advice, I enrolled in Regents College (now Excelsior College) and within a month, I was awarded my associate degree in Administrative/Management Studies (2000).

Continued counseling with Emma helped set the course for completion of my bachelor's degree. Through a series of Regent's College and DANTES exams, I would be able to earn the 21 upper level credits I needed to finish my studies. Continued coaching from Emma, and a push when I needed it, resulted in a bachelor of science degree from Excelsior College in 2001. I thought I was done, but Emma had other plans for me.

After a few more mentoring sessions, Emma convinced me to try graduate school, and I enrolled in Webster University using TA. This environment was a little different, a challenge, but I finished the first class with a solid A and thought that maybe I could do this. Taking one class at a time and utilizing TA, I worked my way through the curriculum and degree plan. A tour to Korea slowed the process a bit, but in June 2005 I graduated from Webster University with my master of arts degree in Management, graduating with honors.

Throughout the years this process took, I was never far from Emma, who I considered my personal education advisor. If I did not call or stop by the office periodically with a progress report, she was on the phone to me, always with a genuine concern for my progress. The education center and TA program were always there to help me identify and reach my goals.”

*CW4 Robert W. Reed, Warrant Officer Program Manager
Office, Chief of Air Defense Artillery
Ft Bliss, El Paso, Texas*



Chief Warrant Officer Robert Reed

Classroom

Continued from page 1

accomplished. I find the coursework thoroughly engaging, challenging, thought provoking, and very applicable to both civilian business and Army leadership.”

SLPA's pilot has concluded and the PDA program is rolling out and expanding. “We're adding laptops to the program so Service members can go back and forth between a PDA and laptop, depending on their access and situation,” said Vilic. “One thing we learned quickly during the pilot phase was that sand in Iraq gets in everything. The soldiers themselves provided a solution for protecting the PDA. Plastic bags with seals, the kind you put a sandwich in, work perfectly,” said Vilic.

Duquesne offers an online bachelor of science degree with concentrations in Computer Technology, Organizational Leadership, Professional Communication, Organizational Behavior, Criminal Justice, and Forensic Science. Their online master of science degrees have concentrations in Leadership and Business Ethics, Leadership and Information Technology, Community Leadership, Leadership and Liberal Studies, and Sports Leadership.

The Learning-on-the-Go® PDA program is offered for all online degree programs and is available to Service members with limited Internet access.

For more information, visit www.leadership.duq.edu/mil or contact Mary Jane Snyder at 1-800-283-3853 or snyder1@duq.edu.

Do you want to share your education success story?
E-mail your 100-word success story to pubs@voled.doded.mil and include your name, rank, branch of service, and your duty station.
Pictures are encouraged.

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Tuition Assistance	1085	1161	tahelp@voled.doded.mil
Certification	1360	1005	certprog@voled.doded.mil
Distribution Center	1082	1140	dist@voled.doded.mil